

*They erected instant cities. Working at dizzying speed with a civilian army of engineers, technicians, contractors, and suppliers, the District built schools, hospitals, cantonments, prisoner-of-war camps, airfields. Work by the Tulsa and Denison Districts was critical to the war because of the region's level terrain and good flying climate.*



“We’re digging

### **HITLER’S GRAVE TODAY,”**

said Maj. Gen. G.C. Brant in April 1941 at a bomber assembly plant groundbreaking in Fort Worth. Completed 100 days ahead of schedule, the Texas plant had put B24 Liberators in the air by November 1942.

Denison was moving even faster than Tulsa in construction, in terms of dollars. By mid-1943, Tulsa had completed about \$312 million in construction; Denison, on the other hand, was nearly finished with \$380 million in construction. That included, in addition to the Fort Worth plant

- ☐ Sheppard Field at Wichita Falls, Texas, completed in 105 days despite 100-degree weather and rains that made a quagmire of the site. Six months after completion, it was handling its capacity of 26,000 aviation mechanic trainees.
- ☐ Three huge cantonments built outright: Camp Fannin at Tyler, Camp Howze at Gainesville, and Camp Maxey at Paris. Expansion at Fort Sill amounted to building virtually a new cantonment.
- ☐ Flying schools, hospitals, training bases, expansion of Love Field in Dallas, and prisoner-of-war camps.